

**California Bay-Delta Public Advisory Committee
Water Supply Subcommittee October 13, 2004 Meeting Summary
Bonderson Building Hearing Room
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon**

Introductions

The following subcommittee members and alternates attended the meeting: Steve Hall, Jerry Meral, Joan Maher, Ron Jacobsma, Gary Bobker, Tom Zuckerman, Richard Denton, Bernice Sullivan, Randall Neudeck, and Alan Zepp

The meeting focused on the following agenda items:

1. Common Assumptions
2. San Joaquin River Water Quality Management Plan Briefing
3. Surface Storage Decision Making Process and Schedule
4. Water Management Science Board Selection Process

1. Common Assumptions -- Presenter: Nannette Engelbrite (Reclamation)

This presentation reviewed the progress of the Common Assumptions effort, beginning with the accomplishments of the various Common Assumptions teams (see presentation). Four of the five storage projects are running three to four operational scenarios to estimate the potential benefits. The Technical Team has completed the Progress Report Common Model Package used for the interim runs and is developing a work plan for the Plan Formulation Common Model Package. One of the challenges that will affect the schedule of the next storage progress report is the In-Delta Storage runs. The In-Delta Storage modeling team is experiencing technical challenges with the daily operations model for the interim runs and will take longer to complete the runs. The Common Assumptions team is planning to meet with the ad hoc technical workgroup in mid-November to discuss technical issues with the interim model runs, work plan and schedule for the Plan Formulation Common Model Package, and stakeholder input on Common Assumptions process. The Plan Formulation Common Model Package are anticipated to be finished by June, 2005 and the Feasibility Study Common Model Package by 2006.

Comments:

A subcommittee member stated that Common Assumptions should be broad enough to include groundwater projects. A question was raised about whether the interim models are using OCAP assumptions; staff responded that they are. The subcommittee asked about the review of LCPSIM and who is conducting the "peer review"; staff responded that the LCPSIM review is not being done by the CALFED Independent Science Board but rather by a diverse group of representatives, including consultants and water agencies. The audience asked if the interim model runs are using the same base hydrology for all projects; staff responded that they are and stated that each project is making the runs independently. The audience asked if Common Assumptions has been updated with the revised San Joaquin River model; staff answered that updates will be included in the Plan Formulation Model Package. Based on audience questions, staff clarified that "characterization" is both for quantification and for determining a defined baseline. The audience was concerned that an analysis has not been completed or even considered to determine if the five projects are relying on the same water in the system. It was suggested that this analysis be completed sooner rather than later. Finally, the subcommittee and audience asked if the Common Assumptions Common Model

Packages will represent transfers; staff responded that the Plan Formulation and Feasibility Study Common Model Packages will include representations of both long-term transfers and spot transfers (based on an initial historical cut).

Action Item:

- The subcommittee suggested that information from the Progress Report Common Model Package runs be presented at the January 2005 BDPAC Water Supply Subcommittee meeting regardless of whether or not a final Progress Report is completed.

2. San Joaquin River Water Quality Management Plan Briefing -- Presenters: Jared Huffman, Tom Zuckerman, and Byron Buck

This effort is developing solutions for water quality problems in the lower San Joaquin River in an attempt to avoid being forced into a regulatory process. Twelve management tools were discussed at a recent meeting at the University of the Pacific, including agricultural load management, recirculation, water transfers, and an aerator in the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel. A draft of this plan is anticipated by December. It was emphasized that this plan is dealing with the lower river independently of the upper river (even though the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation was initiated exclusively for lower river improvements under the CALFED Record of Decision). The presenters (particularly Mr. Huffman) encouraged moving forward even with the Total Maximum Daily Load on salt now in effect; the Friant ruling is not seen as a tool yet because its water quality objectives are not yet defined.

Comments:

Ron Jacobsma stated that the environmental community should support storage because it will improve water quality and restoration; the Friant Water Users Authority is committed to restoration. Regional Water Quality Control Board staff stated that, to “get ahead of the curve”, this effort must also work on measures for the upper river. Further extensive discussion among Mr. Jacobsma, Mr. Huffman, and Mr. Zuckerman followed regarding using storage above Friant Dam to improve water quality, re-operating Friant Dam to improve San Joaquin River flows, and taking immediate actions to improve water quality in the lower river; Mr. Jacobsma emphatically stated that additional water storage at Friant Dam or an equivalent storage would not be used for sales to the Metropolitan Water District.

Action Item:

- The subcommittee requested a presentation on the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation at its January 2005 meeting.

3. Surface Storage Decision Making Process and Schedule -- Presenter: Steve Roberts (DWR)

Mr. Roberts began his presentation by reminding the subcommittee that this prioritization process only prioritizes spending of the State’s Proposition 50 funds. Mr. Roberts then reviewed the progress of each surface storage project:

- with regard to Los Vaqueros Expansion: state agencies and the Contra Costa Water District are developing a Joint Powers Authority (JPA)
- with regard to North-Of-the-Delta Offstream Storage: DWR, Reclamation and other federal agencies, local water agencies, and SWP and CVP contractors will be meeting to discuss a JPA or other strengthened partnership

- with regard to In-Delta Storage: agencies are waiting to update the model to a daily level of analysis by the end of the year; staff is also using data from the Jones Tract levee break
- with regard to the Shasta Lake Water Resources Investigation (SLWRI) and the Upper San Joaquin River Basin Storage Investigation: state agencies are developing processes for soliciting letters of support; DWR's participation on the SLWRI is still restricted by the California Public Resources Code restrictions on the McCloud River.

Mr. Roberts then presented a schedule, prioritized tasks, and costs through September for the surface storage program (see presentation). He noted that Common Assumptions and plan formulation reports will continue past January 2005. He estimated that the second progress report would be finished by January 2005.

Comments:

The subcommittee commented that it is important to consider the support for each project and that a formal framework for partnerships is needed.

4. Water Management Science Board Selection Process -- Presenter: Jack Keller (chair of the board)

Mr. Keller presented to the subcommittee and audience a list of members of this board: the board has sixteen members, including five social scientists who will consider social, economic, and political implications of water management. The board will have standing panels, including one for the storage program. In addition, standing panels can have consultative members. The board is currently requesting issues for consideration by the Board. All requests should be sent to Tom Gohring, Deputy Director for Water Management at the Authority. The first meeting of the board is scheduled for January 26 and 27. An executive committee of staff will ensure that the board is fulfilling its function.

Comments:

In response to the question of how this Water Management Science Board will interact with existing panels, Mr. Keller responded that interaction would take place through standing panels and through the possible establishment of single-focus task forces. The subcommittee and audience asked if the standing panels will conduct studies; Mr. Keller stated that standing panels will define the studies and request proposals much like an RFP. To clarify further questions regarding interaction with the Independent Science Board, Mr. Keller stated that the Water Management Science Board would have more flexibility because it will not be restricted by open meeting laws, would be working for the programs, and will have five members overlapping with the Independent Science Board.

Other Business:

- DWR staff presented a brief overview of the solicitation for groundwater storage proposals. The solicitation package is available on the website, and proposals are due December 2. This process has an advisory committee, which will meet on initial recommendations in April or May and present them at the Authority meeting in May or June.
- Co-chair Meral solicited suggestions for future subcommittee agenda items.

Public Comment:

There was no additional public comment.